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EXHIBIT 6
DATE 3-9-07
SB 753

Global Warming Solutions Act
Hands
HB753

We all see it, less snow in the winter, longer falls and earlier springs. These unusual seasonal weather patterns lead to abnormal hydrographs due to lack of precipitation as snowfall in the late fall and early spring. The unusual hydrographs manifest as non typical fall and spring runoff creating dire consequences for our rivers, stream and lakes late in the summer. Trout depend on and have evolved around a particular snowpack. As snowpack decreases and temperatures rise, we see a decrease in rainbow trout, a species that loves cold water, and an increase in the warmer water loving brown trout. In Montana, FWP will close rivers when they get too warm for fishing. Recently we have seen more of these closures not only earlier but for longer than usual time periods than ever before.

According to the Pew Center on Global Climate Change a temperature increase by as little as 4 degrees will decrease current fish habitat by 35-45 percent. Well what does this mean for Montana? Montana's economy is dramatically tied to water, snow and colder temperatures (whether it is AG or tourism our top two industries). In both summer and winter recreation and tourism is largely dependent on snowpack whether it is brings people to Glacier National park, skiers on the slopes or, later on, the incredible number of people recreating on our lakes and rivers. This recreation contributes billions of dollars to our state-- anglers alone contribute around 420 million dollars.

We have heard lots of facts and figures today about the pervasiveness of the climate change and they all seem very troubling. Please do something for our rivers, fish and the billions of dollars normal snowpack represents, Montana Trout Unlimited urges a do pass on the good solution offered by HB753.

Thanks for your time.

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